

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An engine torque control apparatus for controlling an output torque of an engine connected to a transmission in a vehicle, comprising:
  - a temperature sensor for detecting a temperature of oil supplied to the transmission; and
  - a controller for limiting the output torque of the engine to an engine torque limit or less, said controller being linked to the temperature sensor, wherein the controller functions to:
    - compare the oil temperature with a specific temperature;
    - set the engine torque limit to a first limiting value when the oil temperature is equal to or less than the specific temperature; and
    - increase the engine torque limit at a predetermined increase rate when the oil temperature is greater than the specific temperature.
2. The engine torque control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller functions to increase the engine torque limit stepwise in every predetermined time when the oil temperature is greater than the specific temperature.
3. The engine torque control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller functions to:
  - calculate a maximum torque that can be transmitted by the transmission when the oil temperature is equal to or less than the specific temperature; and
  - set the first limiting value to the maximum transmittable torque.
4. The engine torque control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller functions to compare the engine torque limit with a target engine

torque and to change the engine torque limit to a second limiting value at the same that the engine torque limit becomes the target engine torque.

5. The engine torque control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second limiting value is greater than a maximum output torque of the engine.

6. The engine torque control apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:  
a throttle valve provided with the controller for adjusting an air intake of the engine; and

a sensor for detecting an opening of the throttle valve,

wherein the controller functions to increase the value of the predetermined increase rate as the detected throttle valve opening increases.

7. The engine torque control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specific temperature is the lowest temperature at which a desirable oil pressure can be obtained, and the specific temperature depends on the type of oil.

8. The engine torque control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller comprises a microcomputer coupled to the temperature sensor, a fuel injection apparatus for injecting fuel into the engine, a throttle valve for controlling the air intake of the engine, and an ignition apparatus for igniting the fuel; and

the controller functions to limit the output torque of the engine to the engine torque limit or less by adjusting at least one of an amount of fuel injected by the fuel injection apparatus, an opening of the throttle valve, and an ignition timing of the ignition apparatus.

9. A control method for controlling an output torque of an engine connected to a transmission in a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

detecting a temperature of oil supplied to the transmission;

comparing the oil temperature with a specific temperature;

setting an engine torque limit to a first limiting value when the oil temperature is equal to or less than the specific temperature;

increasing the engine torque limit at a predetermined increase rate when the oil temperature is greater than the specific temperature; and

limiting the output torque of the engine to the engine torque limit or less.

10. An engine torque control apparatus for controlling an output torque of an engine connected to a transmission in a vehicle, comprising:

means for detecting a temperature of oil supplied to the transmission;  
and

means for comparing the oil temperature with a specific temperature;

means for setting an engine torque limit to a first limiting value when the oil temperature is equal to or less than the specific temperature;

means for increasing the engine torque limit at a predetermined increase rate when the oil temperature is greater than the specific temperature; and

means for limiting the output torque of the engine to the engine torque limit or less.